

High-Level Side Event Commemorating 75 Years of the 1951 Refugee Convention

Qatar Charity Written Statement

For a refugee, safety is only the beginning of the journey. Being forced to flee can mean losing almost everything at once: their house, their income, their school, their community and the simple ability to plan for tomorrow.

Humanitarian assistance must respond to these immediate losses. Families need food, children need shelter and the sick need healthcare. These needs cannot wait, but our responsibility cannot end there. People who have been displaced do not stop having ambitions because they have become refugees. Parents still want to provide for their families, children still want to learn and young people still want to work, build careers and imagine a future of their own choosing.

At Qatar Charity, this is why we believe support for refugees must connect emergency assistance with longer term opportunities for people to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Our experience has shown us that this requires partnership. Since 2012, Qatar Charity has contributed more than QAR 218 million (equivalent to USD 60 million) to UNHCR programmes across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, supporting more than 2.1 million forcibly displaced people.

Across different displacement contexts, Qatar Charity has worked alongside refugees, internally displaced people and host communities in countries including Jordan, Lebanon, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Somalia and Sudan. Our support has ranged from emergency shelter, food and healthcare to education, livelihoods and longer-term programmes designed to help families regain greater stability and self-reliance.

More recently, Qatar Charity committed more than QAR 36 million (equivalent to USD 10 million) to the Global Islamic Fund for Refugees, in partnership with UNHCR and the Islamic Development Bank. The Fund brings Islamic philanthropy into the search for more sustainable ways of financing support for displaced people and the communities that host them.

These numbers are significant but what matters more is what they make possible: children returning to classrooms, families moving from a tent into a safer home, people with disabilities receiving inclusive services, young people gaining the means to earn an income, and very importantly, host communities having the resources to welcome people who have lost theirs.

We often speak about refugees in terms of needs and while those needs are real and increasingly difficult to meet, refugees are more than the needs created by their displacement: they have knowledge, skills, families, ambitions and the ability to shape their own futures.

Our task is not simply to help people survive displacement, it is to help create the conditions in which they can move beyond it. That means protecting dignity alongside providing assistance by investing in education and livelihoods alongside emergency relief, by supporting host communities rather than placing

the responsibility of solidarity on them alone, and working to reduce the barriers that prevent displaced people and host communities from accessing the assistance and opportunities they need. It also means listening to refugees not only when we ask what they need, but when decisions are being made about the solutions that will shape their lives.

At a time when humanitarian resources are under extraordinary pressure, we also need to broaden where solidarity comes from. Governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, local communities and faith-based philanthropy all have a role to play.

For Qatar Charity, our commitment is simple: to continue standing with refugees and displaced communities, from the first moments of crisis through the much longer journey of rebuilding their lives.